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BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR 1950

LIBRARY

THE RIDLEY PRESS,
ST IVES, HUNTS

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (Hunts.)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1950.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Saint Ives (Hunts.)

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my first Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

M. M. MARKHAM,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

G. G. YEANDLE, M.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	£19,051
Value of Penny Rate	£79 7s. 7d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (approx.)	1,027
Population (middle 1949)	3,200
Population (middle 1950)	3,310

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total		
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	20	22	42	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population	13.9
Illegitimate	2	2	4	(Ditto for England and Wales)	15.8
Total	22	24	46		
STILL BIRTHS					
Legitimate	0	0	0	Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	0.30
Illegitimate	0	1	1	(Ditto for England and Wales)	0.37
Total	0	1	1		
DEATHS (all ages)	15	23	38	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population	11.48
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Death-rates of Infants under 1 year :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	0
(Ditto for England and Wales)	29.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0
2	Tuberculosis, other	0	0
3	Syphilitic	0	0
4	Diphtheria	0	0
5	Whooping cough	0	0
6	Meningococcal infections	0	0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0
8	Measles	0	0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	1	0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	0
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	1	0
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	0
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	1
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0
16	Diabetes	0	0
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	0	4
18	Coronary disease, angina	2	3
19	Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
20	Other heart disease	2	10
21	Other circulatory disease	0	0
22	Influenza	0	0
23	Pneumonia	0	1
24	Bronchitis	2	0
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	0	1
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	0	0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	0	0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0
31	Congenital malformations	0	0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	1	2
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	0
34	All other accidents	0	0
35	Suicide	1	0
36	Homicide and operations of war	0	0
	TOTAL FROM ALL CAUSES	15	23

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(*a*) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel. : Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. : Cambridge 2097.

(*b*) Ambulance Services

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel. : Huntingdon 67.

(ii) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. Tel. : Huntingdon 59.

(*c*) Home Nursing

A nurse-midwife, resident in St. Ives (Tel. : St. Ives 2228), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

(*d*) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Clinic Buildings, Broadway, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m.	Ditto.
		Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.
Chest	All ages	Every Monday. 2.30-3.30 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males: Wednesdays and Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Females: Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Fridays, 10-12 noon.	28 Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological, and Dental Out-patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(*e*) **Hospital Services**

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Fever.—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

1 (1) **Water.**—The Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board, whose works are situated in Cambridgeshire, supply the Borough with water in bulk; a good pressure has been maintained throughout the year and there has been no shortage of supply.

The Water Board carry out the treatment of the water at the source by chlorination and de-chlorination which appears to be satisfactory, as 145 samples were taken during the year and sent to the Public Health Laboratories, Cambridge, for examination and report, all of which were satisfactory.

The rainfall for the year was 27.41 inches, which is above the average for the district, consequently no shortage was experienced by the few private supplies which remain.

The total consumption for the year was 39,047,000 gallons, which is an increase of 3,652,000 gallons on the previous year.

Name of Town, Village, or Parish	Source of Supply:— Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of Individual Supplies:— Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none
St. Ives	Purchased in bulk from Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	145 analyses were satisfactory from Public supply.

Number of such Analyses 146	Estimated Number and Dwellings Supplied			Estimated Population Supplied		
	Direct from Main Supply: 953	By Standpipes: 42	By Public or Private Wells: 32	Direct from Main Supply: 3,059	By Standpipes: 140	By Public or Private Wells: 111

(2) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—No alterations or extensions were carried out during the year. The need for the installation of an up-to-date sewerage scheme is still an urgent matter, but once again no further progress has been made owing to the excessive cost and the absence of Government grants.

2 **Rivers and Streams.**—General routine maintenance and cleansing of brooks which discharge into the River Great Ouse has been carried out during the year, and although fairly

heavy rainfalls were recorded at odd times no serious flooding took place.

The River Great Ouse Catchment Board has already made certain progress with regard to flood banking which should assist in keeping future flooding within defined boundaries.

3 (1) **Closet Accommodation.**—All new properties within the limits of the existing sewerage system have been connected to the sewers.

The Council arrange for the collection and disposal of night-soil and no complaints were received during the year.

(2) **Public Cleansing.**—The Council continued the contract with the St. Ives Rural District Council for the collection and disposal of house refuse, the Borough assisting by providing the necessary loaders, this enables the whole of the district to be covered in one day.

Owing to the fact that waste paper and other materials are in short supply once again, the collection of salvage has been re-introduced.

4 **Shops and Offices.**—No complaints were received during the year ; minor improvements were carried out after requests to the owners of the premises.

5 **Camping Sites.**—No licences for camping sites have been issued in previous years by the Council and no applications were received during the year.

6 **Smoke Abatement.**—No nuisances occurred during the year and no complaints were received.

7 **Swimming Baths.**—Owing to the unsuitability of the water for bathing purposes, the existing open-air swimming pool was not opened.

Schemes of reconstruction which included the treatment of the water were considered but owing to the high cost the matter was deferred.

8 **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—No complaints of infestation were received during the year and no cases of infestation were found during inspections.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(*a*) **Milk Supply.**—The milk which is retailed in the Borough area is without exception produced in the St. Ives Rural District, and delivered by bottle. No complaints were received during the year.

(*b*) **Meat.**—No private slaughter-houses were used during the year and the Ministry of Food still occupy the Borough slaughter-house, where the examination of all meat is carried out by officials appointed by the Huntingdonshire County Council.

(*c*) **Bakehouses.**—There are three registered bakehouses in the Borough, all have been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning notified during the year.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	10	23	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	31	46	Nil	Nil
Total	41	69	Nil	Nil

Defect	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	—	—	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

HOUSING

1 **Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 183

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 205

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 9

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 14

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 12

2 **Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 11

3 **Action under statutory powers during the year :—**

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 0

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners 0

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 0

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders 0

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made 0

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4 **Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—**

(*a*) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein 0

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 0

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

(*c*) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 0

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 0

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Auhority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(*e*) The Council is proceeding with the erection of council houses as rapidly as possible. There are approximately 300 applicants for council houses at present.

Number of new houses erected and number of new dwellings provided by adaptation during 1950 :—

New Houses by		By Adaptation	
Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Local Authority	Private Enterprise
20	5	None	None

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	5
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria	Nil
Measles	12
Acute Pneumonia	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil
Typhoid Fever	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil
	18

Diphtheria Immunisation

From figures available at 31st December 1950, it was shown that 68.35 per cent of the child population (0-14 years) had received a primary course of immunisation to protect them from diphtheria. 51.12 per cent of the babies (0-4 years) were so protected.

These figures show a very slight improvement on last year's, but are still dangerously low. Every effort must be made to encourage mothers to have their children protected, especially babies under school age.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics, through the School Medical Service, and from General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on register at 31st December 1950: **22.**

Pulmonary: **13.** Non-pulmonary: **9.**

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.